

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00756 061620Z
ACTION L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 756

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, QA
SUBJECT: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF HOLCAR ACTIVITIES -
INFORMING GOVERNMENT OF QATAR (GOQ)

REF: (A) DOHA 692 (B) STATE 136698 (C) STATE 140853

1. COMMERCIAL OFFICER INFORMED DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS,
MR. ABDULLAH SALLAT, OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION OF
HOLCAR ACTIVITIES (AS OUTLINED REF A) ON MORNING OF JUNE 6. AT
END OF DISCUSSION, COMMERCIAL OFFICER PRESENTED AID MEMOIRE.

2. SALLAT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
PETROLEUM OF THE INVESTIGATION AND OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH
COMMERCIAL OFFICER. AS WE ANTICIPATED, SALLAT SAID THAT THE
MINISTER MAY WISH TO DISCUSS INVESTIGATION WITH COMMERCIAL
OFFICER AND/OR AMBASSADOR. COMMERCIAL OFFICER TOLD SALLAT THAT
AMBASSADOR AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS.

3. DURING DISCUSSION, SALLAT INDICATED THAT HE WAS QUOTE SURE
THAT A BRIBE WAS PAID UNQUOTE BUT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING SPECIFIC
THAT HE COULD USE AS EVIDENCE. SALLAT SAID THAT THE GOQ WAS ALSO
INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A BRIBE. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED
IF WE HAD NAMES OF PERSONS, PARTICULARLY QATARIS, INVOLVED.
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COMMERCIAL OFFICER TOLD SALLAT THAT NAMES COULD NOT BE PROVIDED
AT THIS TIME AND THAT ANY AMERICANS INVOLVED WOULD BE PROTECTED
BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVACY ACT. SALLAT INDICATED THAT HE
UNDERSTOOD THE PRIVACY ACT PROVISIONS. HE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY
THAT THE GOQ WOULD LATER OFFICIALLY REQUEST INFORMATION FROM THE
USG AND SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH EMBASSY ON PROPER WAY TO DO SO.

4. SALLAT INDICATED HE WAS NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT JUSTICE WAS INVESTIGATING HOLCAR AND THAT NO REVELATIONS ABOUT THIS COMPANY WOULD SURPRISE HIM. HIS REACTION TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COMMERCIAL OFFICER WAS CALM AND REASONABLE.

5. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE PRESENTED TO SALLAT BY COMMERCIAL OFFICER: BEGIN TEXT:

THIS AIDE MEMOIRE IS PRESENTED AS A WRITTEN RECORD OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY MR. THOMAS K. WUKITSCH IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH MR. ABDULLAH SALLAT ON JUNE 6, 1978.

(A) THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (EQUIVALENT TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE IN MOST GOVERNMENTS) IS EMPOWERED TO INVESTIGATE OPERATIONS OF U.S. FIRMS WHEN THESE FIRMS ARE ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL OR CORRUPT PRACTICES.

(B) AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT OPERATIONS OF HOLCAR OIL COMPANY, A DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED AT THE PRESENT TIME.

(C) PART OF THE INVESTIGATION OF HOLCAR OIL COMPANY CONCERNS ITS OPERATIONS IN THE STATE OF QATAR. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS COOPERATING WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN THIS INVESTIGATION.

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(D) PART OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE OPERATIONS OF HOLCAR OIL COMPANY IN QATAR IS CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR RECEIVED MONEY FROM HOLCAR OIL COMPANY IN RETURN FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION OF HOLCAR OIL COMPANY FOR A CONCESSIONARY AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR. END TEXT.
KILLGORE

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